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the Inside Scoop...of OJJ

Mission:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

It's hard to believe that 2010 is two-thirds gone. Seems like the year just began and here we are with kids back in school, and we are in the middle of hurricane season. Thankfully, although we have been on alert, we have not yet had to deal with a major storm and we should continue to hope and pray that we make it until November without one.

The good news is that the catastrophic oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico appears to be finished. Many thanks to the legions of state and federal employees who have worked non-stop to mitigate the effects of the oil leak. Most people may not be aware, but GOHSEP is still active and people are still manning their posts – while the oil is not gushing there are still after-effects and staff are still keeping watch.

As usual, there is a lot of news around OJJ's world and I am always happy to share it with you. We have a number of new staff members to welcome and I hope they will see from this issue of *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* what a great team they have joined.

Chef Sonnier from Bridge City shares some interesting recipes this month, and I'm looking forward to trying some....check out page 27.

Have a great month, and happy reading.

"Doc" *Dr. Mary L. Livers*

The Daily Motivator

Enrich your whole world

If you don't feel like taking action, that's just because you haven't started. Get started, get going, get involved in making a difference, and you will absolutely feel like it very quickly.

Right now is the time for action. Right now is when you can do something that will have a positive impact on your world, on your life, and on your lifestyle.

If you wish to get ahead, it takes more than just wishing. Clearly define where you want to go, and you can start working on it right now.

Do you want to be lucky? Those who experience the best luck are those who make their own luck by making the most of what they have.

What you have, right now, is this moment and this opportunity to do something useful and meaningful with it. Go ahead, seize that opportunity and make something truly amazing with it.

Surprise and impress yourself with what you can accomplish when you focus your energy on it. This is your moment to enrich your whole world, so get busy, get going and make it great.

--Ralph Marston

Kids' Test Answers: these are real!

Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?

At the bottom.

Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on...Assistant Group Leader (JJS3) Frances Bailey Jetson Center for Youth



If you have ever attended an event at Jetson and observed a professional-appearing vocal performance by a Jetson employee,

you have seen **Assistant Group Leader Frances Bailey** perform. Not only can Frances belt out Gospel and R&B favorites, she enjoys teaching OJJ youth to sing as well. In addition to serving as an assistant group leader, Frances, together with **LSU Social Worker Ben Groover**, leads the Jetson Choir, which performs for events both on and off campus.

"I love singing, and I've been singing since I was eight years old," Frances said. In the early 1980s, she went to Chicago to work with several well-known music producers and sing with the Chi-Lites, a quartet that had 11 top ten R&B hits in the 1970s. Frances, a native of tiny Woodville, Mississippi, said she was not mature enough for the big city at that point. She came back home, and was a music major at Southern University in the early 1980s when she realized that she had to find a job in order to help her mother, a single parent, with her younger brothers.

Frances had always been a member of a choir in her community, and she said she prayed to God for a job where she could get a choir started. The only girl in her family, Frances figured she could handle teenaged boys. So began her 22-year career at Jetson.

Frances was a little disappointed at first that it was not a fulltime position, but after a couple of weeks she figured that was a good thing, because she did not think she could work with youth for long. "After completing the in-service training, I was placed in a dorm, ready or not," Frances said. "As one of only two

women on that shift, I had to earn respect from the male staff as well as the youth,” Frances said. “My journey began. I had to put on my armor and toughen up. You have to hold your chin up and walk tall. Let no one force you to be shorter than you really are. Stand tall, stand strong, and your strength will guide you.”

“Even though it was supposed to be only a three-month job, I tried to do the best job that I could,” Frances said. “I’d look at those big, tough boys in the dorm and wonder, is this the job for me? I pushed myself, and learned. Some of those kids were almost the same age as me. I’d heard stories about what the kids had done. When I had been there for about three months, I started to feel comfortable and I knew this was the work I wanted to do.”

Frances was a temporary employee for about a year before being placed in a permanent position. By that time, the leadership figured she knew the ropes, so she was never sent to the six-week training academy taught at Angola. “I wish I had gotten the training,” she said. “I had no formal training, so I had to learn on my own. I was taught by other staff members how to be a good officer.”

Two years later, girls arrived at LTI and Frances transferred to a unit with 12 girls. In 1990, the unit was enlarged to hold 80 girls. “That’s when my true experience began,” Frances said. “I was only about two years older than some of the girls. And did they give me the blues! Not because I was timid, but because I was young, and I was firm with them. They would complain about me. I was firm but fair, and let them know I was in charge.”

She was promoted to lieutenant in 1995. “By that time I had enough experience that I knew what I was doing,” Frances said. She supervised the night shift in Area 2. “I loved what I was doing, and I wanted to make a difference for the kids,” Frances said. “My mother instilled values and morals in me that I wanted to pass along to my own children and also to our boys.” Frances continued to

receive promotions and move up. By 2000 she was a lieutenant colonel. That was also the year the choir was formed.

The girls would beat on the gym walls to make music, Frances said. When she realized there were a lot of singers in the girls group, Frances asked the warden for permission to start a choir. In a conversation with Ben Groover, Frances revealed that she sings and Ben told her that he is a musician. “Mr. Groover came along for the fun,” Frances said. They got the boys involved and at one point the choir was 125 voices strong, with equal numbers of boys and girls. “We rehearsed every week in the gym, and sometimes the kids would make up songs,” Frances said. The choir performed at area churches, usually accompanied by only Frances, Mr. Groover and one officer. Frances said that one night she was completely exhausted, realizing the risk involved in taking so many kids off campus. To lift her mood, the kids made wooden plaques to present to her, to show their appreciation. She has them still.

Frances truly enjoyed working with the girls. “I loved my girls,” Frances said. “We were an awesome team. We had good programs and we went off campus often for activities.”

In April 2005, the girls program ceased at Jetson. “When the girls left, the staff was very emotional,” Frances said. “We really grieved.” That fall, former Jetson girls began calling Frances to let her know they were alright after Hurricane Katrina. “I was really worried about some of the girls because we knew they had evacuated from New Orleans,” Frances noted. “They would call to check in and tell us they were safe, and to say thanks for treating them well.”

Another consequence of the end of the girls program was having no female voices for the choir. So, Frances and Mr. Groover recruited staff members to join the choir and sing with the boys. Thus began the unique partnership between youth and staff that has resulted in continued performances at area events and

churches, and the release of an original music and video CD in 2007. Frances wrote the lyrics for three of the five original songs on the CD.

Frances returned to working with the boys in 2005. "Some of the things that we do now to get results, we did back then," she said. "We treat the kids fairly and let them know that we love them and care about them. We work to make sure their needs are being met, and then some."

"When I started working here, it was very correctional," Frances said. "One of the things I would do, especially with the girls, would be to call everyone in and talk through the issues until things were resolved. When we began La MOD training, one of the staff members from the Missouri Youth Services Institute came to observe. He told me that one of the things that we had been doing even before the training was the group process. That came naturally for me, as a way to resolve problems."

"Frances Bailey is doing a awesome job as Assistant Group Leader in Spring dormitory," said Director Daron Brown. "She has really adopted the La MOD principles and she is very creative in planning activities for the kids. Frances doesn't work with just Spring youth, she works with all the youth on campus. Whenever I need something done, I know I can count on Frances to do it."

"La MOD is not just a job for me," Frances continued. "'It's a way of taking care of children. Before La MOD, officers could not review kids' case files. You did not know their background or what they had been through. Now, we are in team meetings and we get the information we need to help kids. Now we know why a kid acts the way he does. One of the most important things about La MOD is having the information we need to help kids. We have insight on their background, mental health and medical care and their social skills. Now we have what we need to help our kids. The greatest reward for me is making a difference for them. If the

kids learn to make better decisions, then I have done my job."

"I have worked here my entire adult life," Frances said. "I was practically raised here. I feel like I am supposed to be here," Frances said. "I want to make sure the kids are taken care of when I go home, or I can't sleep at night. I need to know they are eating properly, sleeping, getting the best medical attention, and that they feel safe. I am going to take care of my boys."

Frances is married to Clarence Bailey, Jr. and has two children of her own. Valencia, 18, will soon start college, and ten-year old Clarence III attends Baker Middle School. She has plans to go back to school to finish her degree. She will enroll at Southern University this month to major in criminal justice.

Today Frances sings with an a capella group, New Testament, that performs in the Baton Rouge area. They plan to release a CD in the near future. Frances recently took some of the Jetson youth who are in the choir to hear the a capella group, so they could see and hear for themselves what can be done without musical instruments.

"I'm better able to balance my life and responsibilities now," Frances said, saying the eight-hour shift makes a difference. "The kids benefit too, and I thank God for the time that I spend with the boys. I would rather be working directly with the kids than doing administrative work. These kids have situations to work through, and they learn to trust us and talk to us. I've got these 12 boys to work with, and we have to work to keep their trust and not jeopardize the relationship. I get so much joy from working with them. That's my joy."

"I feel like I have come full circle, because today I am working in the same dorm as when I first started working here," Frances said. "Since we implemented La MOD, we are a real family. We smile and we cry together. I do not set expectations for them

that are so high they can't meet them. We work on things together. This week our first kid to be released went home. It was Stanley, who just graduated as our class valedictorian. We had a party with red beans and rice, cake and ice cream, and everyone was crying."

Frances recalls a recent Mother's Day event held at the dorm. Parents and grandparents visited and viewed a slideshow the youth had created. Some were in tears when they thanked the staff for all they are doing for the kids. One grandmother said she couldn't wait to tell others what great things Jetson is doing for her grandson.

"We're working for them," Frances said. "Being able to teach a child something new and have fun as the same time is the most rewarding thing for me. Where else can you work with people who don't judge you, make you smile every day, have the ability to make you laugh and cry in the same breath. Kids teach us patience, virtue, the value of friendship, peace, calm and the value of time."

"My joy comes from helping others," Frances went on. "There is no bigger responsibility than taking care of kids. A relationship with a child can bear the greatest rewards. The way they are raised, from the cradle, affects the person they will become. I'm glad that I'm in a position to help our youth become responsible citizens."

For Frances, meeting the mission comes naturally.



It's been HOT in Louisiana!

Mail Call

July 27, 2010

Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary
Office of Juvenile Justice

Dear Dr. Livers:

I am writing to express my gratitude for your invitation to the Oregon Youth Authority to participate in the June 28-29 OJJ Investigating Sexual Misconduct Training for Correctional Investigators. Our staff very much appreciated the opportunity to participate and learn.

Ken Jeske, OYA's Chief Investigator, and Monica Moran, OYA's PREA Coordinator, were warmly received and gained valuable skills and insights from your team and The Moss Group, Inc. presenters. The partnerships developed and knowledge gained will strengthen the services we are able to provide to the youth in our care.

Thank you so much for making it possible for us to share in the valuable experience.

Sincerely,
Colette S. Peters, Director
Oregon Youth Authority

Tennessee Dog Sentenced to Behavior Management Classes

Chattanooga, Tenn. - A pit bull mix was recently sentenced to obedience classes after his "dogged attack" on a police car. Although Winston didn't hurt any humans, his attempt to take a bite out of crime resulted in damage to a police car. A local judge ruled Winston had been a very bad dog and sentenced him to obedience and canine good citizen classes. Winston will have to wear a tag that says he is potentially dangerous. If the classes are successfully completed charges pending against his owner will be dismissed. Winston absconded from a fenced area at a local welding shop last month.

Transitions

Comings and Goings...welcome to new members of the OJJ family:

Central Office

Marianne Buchanan, Deputy Undersecretary
Cathy Lockett, Accountant Administrator 3
Gay Lynn Brown, Internal Auditor
Vickie Burgess, Human Resources Specialist
Steven Farber, Attorney 4
Kendrick Rodgers, Accountant 2
LaQuelia Smith, Program Coordinator
Chris Allen, IT Equipment Operator
Paul Graham, Grants Administrator
Wanda Murray, Administrative Coordinator 4

Bridge City Center for Youth

Elise Adams, Instructor
Michelle Allen, JJS 1
Nicole Beal, JJS 1
Salvatore Becnel, JJS 1
Druhetta Borne, JJS 1
Angela Burey, JJS 2
Kristy Burrell, JJS 1
Tribble Condor, JJS 1
Monique Cook, Instructor
Keisha Eadie, JJS 1
Shannon Green, Social Services Counselor 3
Linda Harrison, JJS 2
Shakira Herbert, Social Worker 1
Bertrille Hookfin, Social Worker 3
Terrance Hoyt, JJS 1
Jahlon Jackson, JJS 1
Marlene Kalili-Sailor, JJS 2
Brittany Keller, JJS 1
Vanessa Mackey, JJS 2
Kendall Rand, JJS 1
Schontakelle Thomas, Social Services Counselor 2
Reginald Watson, JJS 1
Toyia Washington, Instructor

Jetson Center for Youth

Saundra Myles, Practical Nurse
Frank Williams, JJS 4

Shreveport

Amanda Lummus, Field Agent
Branda Montgomery, Clerical Assistant
Ciera Murphy, Probation/Parole Officer 1

Swanson Center for Youth

Petrecia Babers, Instructor
Clara Breithaupt, Instructor
Jay Cain, Security Officer
Tony Childress, Security Officer
Logan Cooper, Security Officer
John Cummings, Security Officer
Kemario Elliott, Instructor
Monalisa Gordon, Social Worker 3
Gene Hatten, Security Officer
Victoria Hilburn, Security Officer
Beckie Ledbetter, Security Officer
Sedric Meredith, Security Officer
Jessie Morris, Security Officer
Kimberly Rushing, Program Specialist
Matthew Schulte, Security Officer
Keith Wilkins, Security Officer

Thibodaux

Christopher Paul, Field Agent

Promotions**Bridge City Center for Youth**

Terri Delille, JJS 4
Cassandra Washington, JJS 6

Baton Rouge

Wendy Sarner, Probation/Parole Officer 3

Retirement

Robert Clark, Instructor, Swanson Center for Youth, 12 years of service
Daniel Gillin, Probation/Parole Officer 2, New Orleans OJJ, 30 years of service
Parfiner Harris, JJS 3, Jetson Center for Youth, 14 years of service

What is the highest frequency noise that a human can register?

Mariah Carey.



SUCCESS

As often as we receive stories about our youth overcoming adversity and the situations they find themselves in, we will print them in *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ*. Please keep the good news coming!

Alexandria OJJ: PPO Trinity Adams received the letter below from former OJJ Youth P.M.

My name is unimportant, what is important is my message. I'm in the Air Force and I start college in the fall of 2010 at the UTI in Houston, Texas. I have a GED but will soon be making a career with no worries or concerns. I once faced five years of probation for a FELONY offense at the age of 16. Despite my unfortunate position, I kept a positive outlook and I refused to be labeled as another drunk or a fallen dream.

I later attended the Youth Challenge Program in Pineville. It was truly a new start for me. While at the YCP, I obtained multiple awards, as well as my GED. Right there with me, supporting me all the way, was **Mr. Trinity Adams, my PPO**. In my mind, he is the most helpful probation officer there is. If you are truly committed to changing your life, he will help you in every way possible.

I completed the program, which granted me the privilege of being released from probation, but, as I said, it is a privilege and it MUST be earned. I used to be labeled a nobody, but now when I'm in uniform, I'm a hero. I'm not telling you to go to YCP or the military, but I am telling you not to settle for less. Don't let being on probation be an excuse. Be what everyone expects you NOT to be..... a success story.

If I tell you that this is going to be easy I would be lying to you. It will be hard, you will get frustrated. I was, but you have to stay focused and positive. It will turn out better than the current outcome you are facing (jail). What do you have to lose? Friends, if they

are truly your friends, will be supporting you just like Mr. Adams supported me. If you leave your "friends" on the corner today and come back in five months, guess where they will be (I shouldn't have to answer that for you). Set a goal, one that will benefit you! Be sure that it is positive, and settle for nothing short of success. I deploy in March with the United States Air Force. I'm risking my life for your freedom, so please, do something positive with your life and don't waste it. I'm begging you. Make someone happy to call you their son or daughter, niece or nephew.

Thank you, An American

Jetson College Student Goes Home

After many years away from home, one of our students reached his full-term date and walked proudly out the front gate. **Stanley W.** was a 2009-2010 GED graduate and was the valedictorian of the graduating class for this school year. Last fall, after receiving his GED, he was in the first class to attend off-campus classes at the Baton Rouge campus of Louisiana Technical College. He completed two semester with As and Bs.

Principal Ronnie Knox presented Stanley the Principal's Choice Award for achieving his goals of behavior improvement, GED accomplishment and for being a model student.

Director Daron Brown worked with local businesses to secure employment for this young man upon his release. Stanley left at midnight on a Monday and reported to a job on Tuesday morning. He was extremely excited to have this opportunity waiting for him. He gave the staff his promise that he was going to be very successful and that they will hear great things about him.

The entire Jetson family wishes him the best of luck and prays that we have prepared him for his wonderful life ahead. Congratulations, Stanley, for the terrific job you did in accomplishing your goals.

CQIS Policy Updates

Approved:

- A.2.26 Hiring and/or Promotional Interviews 7/21/10
- A.2.42 Leave Approval for Employees Prior to Retirement 8/6/10
- A.2.55 Time and Attendance 8/10/10
- A.2.56 Central Office Dress Code 7/21/10
- A.2.60 Domestic Violence 7/12/10
- A.3.2 Travel 8/10/10
- A.3.10 LaCarte Purchasing Card 8/10/10
- A.6.2 Personal Property Reimbursement 8/10/10
- A.7.3 Facility Design /Space Mgt. 8/10/10
- B.8.1 Telephone Usage by Youth and Monitoring of Calls 7/29/10

Revision:

- A.2.54 Attainment of One Year Certificate in Juvenile Justice 8/11/10

Rescinded:

- A.1.10 Pledge for Safety 7/28/10
- A.2.29 Juv. Jus. Employee's Oath 7/28/10
- DYS Policy 1.9 Space Management 8/10/10
- DYS Policy 4.2 Purchasing 8/10/10

Thibodaux Regional Office

Congratulations

PPO Heidi McElroy was chosen Employee of the Month for June. PPO Brown has been a member of the OJJ family since March 2004. She is a very thoughtful, reliable, and dependable officer and soon-to-be mother. Heidi and her husband will soon welcome their daughter. We are all looking forward to meeting the little one.

PPOs JaNice Williams and Josef Nguyen were recently reallocated to PPO3s.

How does Romeo's character develop throughout the play?

It doesn't, it's just self, self, self, all the way through.

Thibodaux OJJ success story

A lady from the Department of Health and Hospitals came by TOJJ to drop off counseling materials on the BP oil spill. She mentioned that her daughter had been on supervised probation through the Thibodaux Office. She showed us a picture of her daughter and told **PPOs Sandra Rodrigue and Tracy Theriot** that she graduated from high school and enrolled in college. It goes to show that probation and parole officers have a lifetime impact on kids' lives. Kudos to the PPOs who had the opportunity to work with this child in getting her life back on track.

AMikids Students go Scuba Diving in the Atlantic Ocean

Two students, **Trey J.** and **Haven A.**, from AMikids Donaldsonville, took part in the AMikids, Inc. Dive Invitational in July in Florida City, Florida.



AMikids Donaldsonville students Haven A. and Derek M. learn stride entry into water in full scuba gear.

To prepare for the adventure the students from the AMikids Donaldsonville took scuba diving classes taught by AMikids **Chief Executive Officer O.B. Stander, Asst. to the Chief Helen Sheaves and Mike Salberg, Manager of AMikids Boatyard. AMikids Donaldsonville Executive Director/Certified NAUI Rescue Scuba Diver Tamiko Garrison and Director of Operations Charlie Brooks** traveled with the students. "Aside from the benefits of traveling to a different state and meeting new people, our students returned with strengthened leg and arm muscles, improved suppleness in the feet, skilled coordination and concentration, refreshed minds, renewed respiratory systems, and a better view of the meaning of life," Garrison said.

Tallulah Regional Office

PPO II Robert Johnson recently attended a church summer camp at Discovery Camp in Columbia, Texas, with the youth of Bethany Worship Center of Crowville, LA. The campgrounds had a water park with two large waterslides, a pool, basketball and volleyball courts. The youth enjoyed themselves in the activities of tug-of-war, archery and obstacle course as well as the church services. After leaving camp they went to San Antonio, Texas to visit Sea World before returning home.

PPO3 Truett Glass recently attended and participated in the Day Against Substance Abuse Program at AMIkids - Tallulah. **Officer Bobby Jones**, husband of AMI Tallulah **Treatment Director LaTonya Jones**, presented an informational program to the youth on the dangers of substance abuse while driving a motor vehicle. Officer Jones is a DWI Enforcement Officer and also serves as a Field Sobriety instructor for the Vicksburg Police Department. Truett assisted Officer Jones by wearing impairment-inducing goggles to show the youth how hard it is to perform a simple "walk the line task" while under the influence of mind-altering substances. The youth really liked seeing the AMI Instructors and Truett attempting to walk a straight line, which was impossible while wearing the goggles.

Truett gave a brief presentation to the youth on the negative effects of illegal drugs in our communities. **PPO Allison Lirette** engaged the youth in a presentation on awareness of lasting problems brought on by substance abuse and substance dependence.

Mrs. Jones awarded gift certificates to local restaurants as prizes to the youth who participated in the essay and poster contest. They will be able to use their gift certificates in the Tallulah area during lunchtime at AMIkids.



PPO3 Truett
Glass wearing "drunk goggles."

For Fourth of July activities, Tallulah AMIkids recently heard a presentation of the Timeline of the Revolutionary War starting from the French and Indian War in 1754, to 1788 when the U.S. Constitution was adopted and ratified by New Hampshire. The students also completed biographies of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. Students have been studying Flag Facts where they are developing an understanding of the description of the American flag as well as exploring information and facts about the American flag. The students had an opportunity to win prizes by competing in a Bill of Rights Word Search Contest.



A student shows a poster about the American flag.

Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic.

Two polar bears
~~Three~~ Four Seals

Swanson Center for Youth

LSU Staff Honored

Administrative Assistant 3 Marilyn Goldman recently attended a luncheon honoring graduates of the LSUHSC-Shreveport Forensic Psychiatry Residency Program. Marilyn is the “go to” person for LSU Shreveport psychiatrists providing services at SCY, and she is one of the first people that new forensic psychiatry fellows are introduced to when they arrive on campus.

Present at the luncheon were graduating forensic psychiatrists, LSU Department of Psychiatry psychiatrists, judges and other dignitaries. **Dr. Ed McGuire, Assistant Mental Health Director**, said, “I am very proud of Marilyn and am vicariously honored as a member of the Swanson Family by her recognition. It is rewarding to know that someone at Swanson is recognized for their competence, efficiency and cordial manner.”

SCY Holds Fun Day for Youth and Staff

Swanson recently held a “Fun Day” for the youth and staff. Activities included a football toss, basketball throwing contest and other games. **Instructor Larry Prater** arranged the donation of watermelons for all the dorms. **Director Carolyn Atkins** gave out prizes for the staff who wore the best Independence Day outfit, shirt, hat, etc. Donations were collected from staff to purchase the food, including ribs, sausage, turkey sausage, baked beans and corn on the cob. The “Grill Masters” were **SSC Jerome Dixon, Program Manager Dan Williams, JJS4 Lynn Foster, JJS3 Don Armstrong** and **JJS3 David Staten**, who began working around 5 a.m. that morning in order to have the meat prepared by lunchtime - which it was, and it was delicious! After all the dorms had participated in the activities, a volleyball game was held in the gym. And thankfully, the rain held off until after the festivities.



The volleyball game held in the gym.



The basketball throw.



The football toss.

Congratulations LAMOD Graduates

We are delighted to congratulate staff who participated in the recent La MOD graduation:

Donald Armstrong, JJS3

LaToria Ashley, JJS1

Petrecia Babers, JJS1

Clara Breithaupt, JJS1

Mary Brown, Dietary Manager

Mario Elliott, Instructor

Scott Haley, IT Specialist 2

Shakita Hays, Administrative Coordinator 3

Sharon Jackson, JJS3

Ida Jenkins, Food Production Supervisor

Linda Moore, Food Production Supervisor

Katie Parker, Administrative Coordinator 3
Kimberley Rushing, Program Coordinator
Jayne Smith, SSD Instructor

Youth Participate in Mission Trip: "Love Out Loud"

SSC3 Marsha Fountain and **SSC5 Dusty Teer**, along with five youth, went on a mission trip that Ms. Fountain called "Love Out Loud." The first day, they went to the Ronald McDonald House where they cleaned and did other household chores. The second day, they went to Power Church where they cleaned, painted and did some needed maintenance work. The third day, they helped out at a Habitat for Humanity site, and did some after-construction cleaning. At the end of each trip, a devotion was held by **Pat Spain, Assistant Director of Nursing**. Thanks to Raising Cane's and CiCi's Pizza for providing meals on two of the days.



Youth performing tasks on the "Love Out Loud" mission trip.

Youth Work to Beautify Rec Center

As part of the current efforts by OJJ for Restorative Justice, **SSC3 Charles Kline** arranged for six youth to participate in the beautification of Emily P. Robinson Recreation Center and Mt. Nebo Playground on Jackson Street in Monroe. The beautification project consisted of cleaning and replanting the flower beds, trimming the hedges, and picking up litter on the grounds of the recreation center.

Vacation Bible School

Our Chaplain, **Rev. Ricky James**, organized Swanson's 8th annual Vacation Bible School on campus in the gym. Our theme was "Trading Places." Our lessons were Trading Loneliness for Loyalty, Trading Sheep for Subjects, Trading Beauty for Bravery, Trading Fish for Faith and Trading Violence for Victory.

We began the week with 42 youth on Monday, 46 on Tuesday, 65 on Wednesday, 59 on Thursday, and on Friday there were a whopping 79 youth engaged in VBS.

Our youth really enjoyed themselves during the week. They participated in singing our theme song by Alvin Darling, "I Thank God for Knowing You."

LaShonda Bradshaw, LSU Administrative Assistant, taught the youth to sing the theme song in sign language. Our youth were very well mannered and respectful during the week.

Our VBS teachers included some of our SCY instructors, **Lydia May, Robert Moffet, Michael Fontana, Rosie Jones, Teicha Woods** and **JJS Cedric Brown**.

Also assisting were the community volunteers who regularly visit, **Rev. Donald Smith, Rev. Bruce Thorn, Rebecca Bourgeois, Ms Sharolyn Shultz** and **Rev. Damon Nailer**.

Rev. Nailer was our featured guest "rap artist." Rev. Nailer has released several CDs and he performed songs from his latest CD.

Our youth and teachers received certificates for attending VBS. The youth were served delicious refreshments every day, donated by Rev. Thorn, Rev. Smith, Ms. Bourgeois, Ms Shultz and Rev. James.

Shreveport Regional Office

Congratulations

PPO 1 Jarred Cram is Shreveport OJJ's July **Employee of the Month**. Jarred is a dedicated employee and an asset to the Region.

PPO3 Terri Harber was also honored by **RM Kristi Martin** with a certificate of achievement for maintaining 100% client and family contact percentages for the last six months.

Welcome

Shreveport OJJ welcomed two new staff members, **PPO 1 Ciera Murphy** and **Transport Officer Amanda Lummus**. Both are welcome additions to the office!

Community Service

Shreveport OJJ conducted community after-hour curfew checks in July, under the supervision of **PPS Guy May**. PPOs participating were **Charles Herrmann, Jarred Cram, Todd Carlisle** and **Jennifer Hill**.

We recently sponsored training on Sex Offender Community Based Services. The training was conducted by **Dr. Yolanda Crump**, and many local providers attended as well as probation staff.

Probation, Parole, and Community Supervision Week Celebrated

Shreveport OJJ celebrated Probation, Parole, and Community Supervision Week July 19 - 23 with a full week of activities. On Monday, PPOs were presented thank you cards signed by supervisory staff. On Tuesday, PPOs were given goodie bags with candy, games, notepads and other treats. Contributing promotional items to the goodie bags were VOA of North LA, Goodwill Industries,

Rutherford House and Volunteers for Youth Justice. On Wednesday, supervisory staff provided and served breakfast to PPOs and Volunteers for Youth Justice provided in-service training and lunch. Thursday PPOs enjoyed a day of team-building at YMCA Camp Forbing where everyone participated in teambuilding exercises including building a tower, ropes course activities, activities on the rock climbing wall, and "The Tower" challenge. A lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs was provided by supervisory staff. Staff reported the ropes course activities were the favorite of the week and that they learned something new about working with others. Ending the week on Friday, staff received tee shirts from Ware Youth Center. Staff had a great week and expressed many thanks for the activities.

Pictured are a number of team-building activities at Camp Forbing.



New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

National Night Out Against Crime Program

By Program Specialist Yezette White

I was asked to speak at the National Night Out Against Crime gathering on the evening of August 3. The event was hosted by Regular Baptist Church in Gretna. When the guest speaker, New Orleans Saints Rickey Jackson, was unable to attend, Reverend Dr. Toy A. Hodge asked me to take his place, since I was present and work with an agency that supervises youth. Although I had no prepared speech, I did not pass up the opportunity to talk to parents and youth in the community. After making some quick notes, I spoke about my job duties, what the employees in the local field offices do on a daily basis and talked with parents and youth about how to avoid becoming involved in the "system" and how to progress through it once involved.

Following my presentation, I was commended by **State Representative Cedric Richmond**, **Judge Terri Love** of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, **Jim Ward**, a community leader and homebuilder, and **Karen Woods**, a representative of Crime Stoppers, as well as parents and YOUTH who appreciated the information and the presentation. That made it all worthwhile, as it is my goal each day to Reach One/Save One. Over 100 people participated in the Night Out Against Crime Event.



Pastor

Toy Hodge introducing speakers at the National Night Out Against Crime Event.

Welcome

PO Joshua McManus transferred from the Baton Rouge regional office to the Orleans office in July. There is something quite special about Joshua. He fit right in and it is as if he has always been with us. Welcome Joshua!

PPO Stanley Schofield on the Speaking Circuit

In July, the Housing Authority of New Orleans invited **PPO Stanley Schofield** as the motivational speaker at its "Youth Summer Employment Banquet" held to celebrate the completion of the summer employment program by 100 youth. All of the participants were residents of public housing in New Orleans, ranging in age from 14 - 24. A group of participants from the Job One summer employment program also attended the banquet. The banquet acknowledged the successful completion of an 8-week period of active participation by participants in the summer employment program. Thanks to Stanley, for utilizing his gifts to help in the elevation of others to the next level!

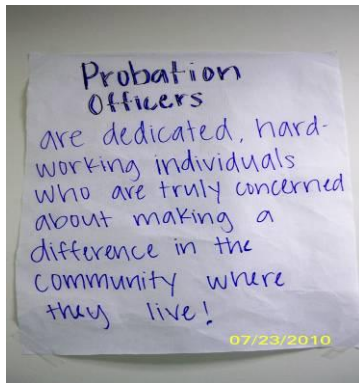
Probation, Parole, Supervision Week Celebrated

Opportunity knocked and we graciously answered the door! Of course, as you very well know, the week of July 21st was designated as a time to celebrate and show appreciation to Probation & Parole Officers, and we had fun doing just that.

We sprang into action on the 21st by passing out delicious muffins in a rainbow of colors to each officer. The muffins were huge and it took two hands to properly eat them! We also gave out certificates of appreciation because we so dearly appreciate our officers, their efforts and everything they do on a daily basis. On Tuesday, we eased into each office and placed a scented diffuser, in an array of fragrances, on each officer's desk, as we

wanted them to experience a refreshing exotic breeze. Wednesday was hump day and time to spring into the partying mood. So with that in mind, we had an ice cream party with different flavors and multiple toppings to boot. The support staff added their own signature touch by having personalized treats made for the probation officers.

A bag of tasty, melt-in-your-mouth praline treats was left on each officer's desk on Thursday morning. By the afternoon, none were in sight. Friday was the BIG PIZZA PARTY and I do mean big. We had 18 large pizzas to devour. We didn't quite accomplish our eating goal, as several PPOs were seen sneaking out of the office with to go bags in hand.



The poster at left, created by **Holli Ragan**, daughter of our very own **Karen Ragan**, sums things up perfectly.



A lot of sneaking around occurred on July 23rd, as the staff surprised **Regional Manager Kelly Clement** with a birthday cake, ice cream, and in keeping with the spirit of things, an oversized birthday card signed by staff.



We celebrate RM Kelly Clement's birthday.

Forgiveness Day Celebrated

In July a "Forgiveness Activity" was coordinated by our very own **Social Worker Roxann Tuircuit** and **Glenis Scott, Director of Case Management** for the Youth Empowerment Project. The day was dedicated as "Forgiveness Day." The students were afforded an opportunity to describe, in their own words, what forgiveness means to them and the significance of being able to actually render forgiveness. One student stated, "You lose friendships if you don't forgive." Another student stated, "It's not God like not to forgive." The day concluded with a field trip to the Aquarium of the Americas. Special thanks to the precious youth in the YEP Camp for such mighty and inspirational words of wisdom!!



Forgiveness Day at YEP.

In July the students of AMIkids held a discussion pertaining to the significance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. The students also created pictures depicting different sections of the Preamble to the Constitution. The students were also provided with an opportunity to

create a version of the Declaration of Independence in the form of a song, poem, comic strip or picture book. A post-test was given to students at the end of the day. The results prompted a massive display of smiles and sparkling internal fireworks. Way to go AMI.

Bye for now and remember, life is a precious gift, so treasure its contents, unwrap carefully and use wisely.

Natchitoches Regional Office

Congratulations



**PPO Jeremy Martin,
Employee of the Month.**

PPO Deanna Williams welcomed a beautiful baby girl, **Kalayah**, on Saturday, July 3.

AC3 Virginia Levasseur welcomed a beautiful grandson, **Sunny**, on June 29.

PPO3 Ashley Ward's daughter, Lillie graduated from Preschool in July.



Staff enjoyed cake and ice cream in celebration of Probation & Parole Officer Week. **RM Randall Hill** presents the cake.



Natchitoches OJJ's cake.

Monroe Regional Office

Thanks

Monroe OJJ would like to recognize officers who have put forth extra effort when working with our youth.

In June the Louisiana National Guard Youth Challenge Program at Camp Beauregard graduated 237 cadets. The highest rank a cadet can receive is Five Star. With the assistance of **PPO3 Gary Hunter, Aumean P.** graduated with a Five Star ranking and was awarded a \$1000.00 scholarship from Merrill Lynch. GOOD JOB!

We would also like to recognize **PPO3 Jennifer Bible**, who assisted one of her youth, **Patrice P.**, who received a three-year scholarship to a local private high school. PPO Bible filled out the application, took the youth for interviews, and spent a lot of time making this happen. GOOD JOB!

In July, **PPS Orlando Davis** spoke to the Youth Cadet Academy on the topic of Juvenile Probation and Parole, at the request of **Assistant District Attorney Johnny Sanders**.

What did Mahatma Gandhi and Genghis Khan have in common?

Unusual names

Congratulations

We are delighted to congratulate our newlyweds, **Mr. and Mrs. Orlando Davis**. **PPS Orlando Davis** married **Sarah** in a ceremony at the West Monroe Civic Center on July 10th. It was a beautiful wedding, followed by a great party.

PPO3 Janice Wheelis was named **Officer of the Quarter** for the 2nd quarter of 2010. We all are proud of her, and it was WELL DESERVED!!!

Meetings, meetings

RM Patty Newman and **PS Walteree Barnes** attended the Leadership Meeting, and **PPS Linda Williams** attended the Supervisor Training Committee meeting, both held in Baton Rouge in July. **RM Newman** also attended the Regional Managers meeting in Baton Rouge.

Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week Celebrated

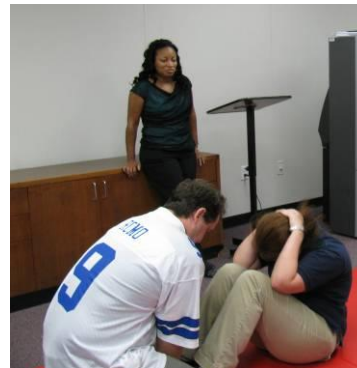
RM Patty Newman, **PPS Linda Williams**, **PPS Karl Wallace**, **PPS Orlando Davis**, **PPS Larry Tolbird**, **PPS Gail Wilson**, **Program Specialist Walteree Barnes** and **Education Specialist Debra Franklin** joined together to make Probation and Parole Officer Appreciation Week enjoyable for all our PPOs. The weeklong celebration included a watermelon party, ice cream party, prize drawings, Iron Man/Woman competition and a cookout. The prize drawing was very popular since each PPO was awarded a prize, including free car washes, gift cards to local restaurants and stores, Saints gear, LSU gear, a Glock pistol bag, mag light, range earmuffs and other police supplies.

We would like to recognize the winners of the First Annual Iron Man /Woman Competition. Women's Division: **Jennifer Bible** – 1st Place Push-ups (note...they did men's push-ups); **Cheryl Pringle** – 1st Place

Sit-ups and **Kashka Flintroy** – 1st Place Arm Wrestling. Men's Division: **Willie Hunter** – 1st Place Push-ups (note...he did 72 in 1 minute); **Jeremy Keys** – 1st Place Sit-ups and **David McMillan** – 1st Place Arm Wrestling. In addition, **PPS Karl Wallace** won 1st Place in the Chess Competition. Good job, y'all! It was a FUN Week, and our way to thank all of our PPOs at Monroe OJJ for their hard work and dedication.



PPO Jennifer Bible, Push-up Champion.



PPO Cheryl Pringle, assisted by PPS Karl Wallace, Sit-up Champion.



CWA Kashka Flintroy, Arm Wrestling Champion.



PPO Willie Hunter, under the watchful eye of Uncle Gary, Push-up Champion.



PPO Jeremy Keyes, assisted by PPS Orlando Davis, Sit-up Champ.



PPO David McMillan, Arm Wrestling Champion.



PPS Karl Wallace playing PPO Patrick Cooper, Chess Champion.

Monroe OJJ sponsored an Essay Contest for our youth in celebration of Independence Day. Each PPO had a youth on their caseload write an essay entitled, "What does the Fourth of July Mean to Me?" There were several excellent entries, and the 1st place winner was awarded a \$10 gift card from Wal-Mart, donated by **PPS Linda Williams**.

Lake Charles Regional Office

Congratulations

PPO Fred Fontenot for being chosen as the **Probation Officer of the Year for OJJ**. Way to go **Fred!!** We are so proud of you!

In July, **PPO Jeff Haley** and **PPO Fred Fontenot** took a group of nine boys ages 16-17 from Boy's Village to Child Support Court in Jeff Davis Parish. They were able to witness a court session where **Judge Steve Gunnell** detained two men for failure to pay child support, issued bench warrants for failure to appear and ordered about 20 men and 3 women to pay child support. The amount of support ranged from \$1100.00 for one child to \$100.00 for a man who is on disability and only made \$450.00 a month. The boys were able to see what happens when poor decisions are made and it was definitely a successful trip.

PPO Monet Newman and **PPO Delisa Clark** taught the first Juveniles Accepting Responsibility for Shoplifting class to several youth in Beauregard Parish.

PPO Garrick Chambers, **PPO Ronald Gilchrist** and **PPO Fred Fontenot** participated in a charity softball game to help raise money for the Holly Thibodeaux Scholarship Fund.

PPO Alexis Heflin, **PPO Hollie Comeaux** and **PPO Angela Stevens**, along with 36th Judicial District Judge **Kerry Anderson** and Assistant Attorney General **Michael Landry**, took the opportunity to visit with youth

placed at Jetson Center for Youth. They were given a tour and were able to speak with youth and staff at the facility.

We are happy to report **PPO Rebecca Harmon** is off to a speedy recovery! We are so thankful for health and are ready to have her return to work!

Lafayette Regional Office

Farewell

Lafayette OJJ bids farewell to Lafayette **PPO Roy Brown**, who retired in July. Roy has been with OJJ for many years, and his smile, wit, and good nature will be missed in the office. A farewell party was thrown for Roy at Deano's Pizza in Lafayette. We wish Roy all the best, as he begins life on Easy Street... on his Harley.



PPO Roy Brown at his farewell party.

Lafayette PPOs **Lynette Broussard** and **Chris Potier** recently gave an OJJ-oriented presentation to the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office Juvenile Officer Academy. The academy is a two-week course for POST-certified officers wishing to specialize in juvenile justice. Their lecture discussed the role of OJJ in the juvenile justice system.

Name one measure which can be put into place to avoid river flooding in times of extensive rainfall (e.g. in Mississippi).

Flooding in areas such as the Mississippi may be avoided by placing a number of big dams into the river

Jetson Center for Youth

Welcome

Please welcome the newest members of the Jetson family and wish them a long and successful career with JCY.

Johnnie Butler, JJS 1
Sarah Davis, JJS 1
Takeshia Dixon, JJS 1
Antoinette Fisher, Food Production Worker
Jefferson Jordan, JJS 3
Pamela Lodge, JJS 1
Kimberly Ringgold, English Teacher
Frank Smith, JJS 1
Frank Williams, JJS 4

Congratulations

Richard Carroll, promoted to Juvenile Justice Specialist 3

Please wish **JJS 3 Parfiner Harris** the best in retirement. With 14 years of service, Parfiner will be greatly missed.

Autumn's Dormitory Visits Louisiana War Veterans Home

A group of Jetson youth enjoyed a spectacular trip to the Louisiana War Veterans Home in Jackson. Autumn youth recently visited the home and presented the residents with specially made greeting cards. The youth played games, including pool, dominos, playing card, etc. The youth also provided the residents an opportunity to reminisce about the different wars served in. One resident went to his room and brought back pictures of his family to share with the youth.

JJS6 James Spears said, "I thought the kids would gain a greater idea of who fought for them to have rights, and survived. The veterans would have a great deal of experience to share about what life was once like." James said that he would like to continue these outings with the youth to raise

their awareness and give back to the community.

Terrley G., a youth in Autumn, said, "I felt happy and grateful to see people who fought for me." **Romero R.** said, "I had a nice time. One of the residents gave good advice; he told us we had so much life left to make good choices. He said we should decide on what we want to be when we grow up. The resident told us to go to school and get an education."

A special thank you to **Ms. Sharon Williams** for assisting in making Jetson's staff and youth feel welcome.

Staff who attended were Autumn's **Group Leader James Spears, JJS 6; Autumn Assistant Group Leader Billie Shelton, JJS 3; Laurie Quearles, JJS 2, Javonna Jones and Rosena B. AbdulAziz, Social Service Counselors.**



Above and below: Autumn youth visit with residents of the LA War Veterans Home in Jackson.



Youth Attend A Capella Musical

Five youth accompanied by staff members **JJS 3 Reginald Robinson, JJS3 Evelyn Jarvis** and **JJS3 Andrea Young** recently attended a musical at the Hollywood Street Church of Christ along with **Asst. Group Leader JJS 3 Frances Bailey** and her family.

Several groups performed *a cappella* (with no accompaniment by musical instruments), which the youth had before never experienced. The youth really enjoyed the beautiful melodies and are excited about attending the next event. Afterward the musical Frances and her family treated the staff and youth to a meal at McDonald's.

Are You Ready for the Challenge?

Scenic Alternative High School recently held a special assembly for the youth to hear a message from **Sgt. Michael Walker**, of the Louisiana National Guard. The program was coordinated by **Dexter James, Social Service Department** and **Principal Ronnie B. Knox**. The guest speaker was well received by the youth and he delivered a great message to our students. He quoted General George Patton, Jr. as he said, "Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory!"

Sgt. Walker encouraged the youth to use their time at Jetson to excel in school work and participate in all programming possible. By using this time wisely, he said, the youth can return to their communities and be accepted into the National Guard Services. The youth had many questions and concerns, which Sgt. Walker was happy to entertain. The students left the assembly encouraged, and with feelings of hope that they *will* become better people.

What is a fibula?

A little lie

Educators Attend Symposium (It's Hard Work, But Somebody Has To Do It!)

Four teachers from Scenic Alternative High School participated in the Nuts and Bolts Symposium held recently in Destin, Florida. The teachers included **Andrea Barnardez**, **Denise Clause**, **Gail Hargrove** and **Carrie Stewart**.

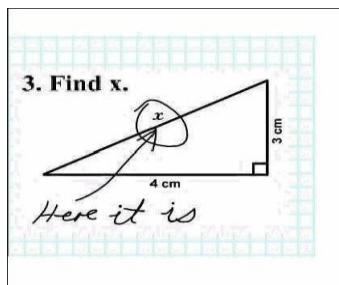
They joined other OJJ education staff at the event. Riverside Alternative School at Bridge City, Southside Alternative School at Swanson and central office sent representatives to learn new information.

Everyone felt that it was one of the best learning experiences that they have participated in. The symposium was inspiring, and they heard many stories that OJJ staff could relate to. The group of presenters concentrated their sessions on the middle school students, so it was very relevant for us.

Of course, fun and learning go hand in hand. The participants shared dinner together and networked with other people from out-of-state. The skills learned will enhance instruction at OJJ's schools.

We appreciate the opportunity to learn from experts in the field of education. We hope that this become an annual event.

Principal Ronnie Knox had the teachers who attended the symposium present the knowledge they gained at the conference to the rest of the education staff.



Summer School Ends the 2010 School Year

The summer school session ended July 15 at Scenic Alternative High School for students and staff. Report cards were completed and thoughts of the new school year began to develop. Education staff had a week off and spent time with families and friends. Many faculty members took short trips to relax, rest and celebrate a successful school year.

The 2010-2011 school year began on August 3 with lots of motivated students arriving with their new class schedule in hand. A few teachers received new assignments and new classrooms. All teachers were reassigned home rooms to give the students something new from the summer term.

Students arrived for class and were pleasantly surprised to see new and beautiful bulletin boards. They were happy that **Mr. LaJeune**, **C-Tech teacher** and **Roc Paul**, **art teacher**, were back to offer their expertise. They were excited to learn that a new teacher had arrived and they will be able to learn new and challenging things from **Kimberly Ringgold**.

Educators received their annual training the last week in July. **Principal Ronnie Knox** surprised the faculty with a meal including seafood jambalaya, salad, dessert and drinks, to show the faculty how much he appreciates all of the work they do for our students. He started off the new school year with a bang!

Principal Knox presented the focus for the new school year, which is reading and improvement of the students' reading scores. He intends to use data to drive the instruction at Scenic Alternative High School.

Every Wednesday morning, everyone will read a book or magazine to help improve their reading. Everyone will read and reread until it becomes second nature. This **Stop, Drop, and Read** initiative will help to achieve our goal of improving reading scores on standardized tests.

Hammond Regional Office

Congratulations

SUPERSTAR! The Hammond OJJ Superstar for June is the **22nd JDC unit**. They were recognized by **PPO Leigh Calmes** for handling her cases while she was at the Academy.



PPO Leigh Calmes graduated from the CARTA POST Academy in Baton Rouge in July. Way to go Leigh!

residents at the Academy, and Academy staff shared their ambitions and struggles with opening the facility. **U.S. Congressman Anh “Joseph” Cao** presented a Congressional certificate to the facility and **Anthony Hargrove** of the "World Champion New Orleans Saints" shared his personal story of recovery. He gave an enlightening and motivating speech to the youth at the facility, empowering them to "be anything they want." While there, OJJ staff toured the facility and visited with residents and staff individually.



Staff Attend Odyssey House Holds Opening Ceremony

PPS Dawnita Hodge and **PPOs Kasey Wall, Jenna Hill, Mark Benton, Jennifer Sirchia** and **Jamie Oertel** attended the recent grand opening ceremony of Odyssey House's residential substance abuse treatment facility for adolescents in New Orleans.

Odyssey House Academy is a new treatment facility for male and female adolescents between the ages of 12-17, who abuse alcohol or drugs.

The program is free of charge to the adolescents. Insurance and Medicaid are not needed; the program is funded through the Department of Health and Hospitals. Odyssey House Academy is a comprehensive clinical and educational program to help teens live in recovery.

During the opening ceremony, attendees heard personal stories from some of the

Hammond OJJ staff attended the grand opening of Odyssey House, a residential substance abuse treatment facility. Pictured are Jennifer Sirchia, Dawnita Hodge, Anthony Hargrove, Mark Benton, Jenna Hill, Jaime Oertel and Kasey Wall.

Showing Our Appreciation to the PPOs

Hammond OJJ showed its appreciation for our PPOs during Probation and Parole Officers Week. On Wednesday we enjoyed pizza, brownies, ice cream, chips and dip.

We also played a “mad lib” type of game during our staff meeting. **SSC4 Lori Wagner** created the mad lib game and led us in the activity. We all had a really great time. Our thanks to our Hammond OJJ PPOs!!! We appreciate everything you do!

Central Office

Welcome

Central Office welcomes several new staff members to the family:

Chris Allen, IT Equipment Operator. Chris has been a contract worker and we are pleased that he has become an OJJ employee.

Marianne Buchanan, Deputy Undersecretary
Gay Lynn Brown, Internal Auditor

Vickie (Breland) Burgess, Human Resources Specialist. Vickie worked for us from August 2005 until January 2008. Welcome back, Vickie!

Steven Farber, Attorney 4

Paul Graham, Grants Administrator

Cathy Lockett - Accounting Admin 3

Wanda Murray, Admin. Coordinator

Kendrick Rodgers, Accountant 2

Laquelia Smith, Program

Coordinator/Social Services

Morale Committee Works to Keep Us (Fat and) Happy

Thanks to the Morale Committee for making us smile (and fat). They most recently hosted two occasions for us to indulge in ice cream sundaes, with lots of toppings and syrups to choose from. Our thanks to the committee for their efforts to boost morale and build fellowship.

Members are **Katherine Abrams, Marvel Adams, Latrice Bracken, Claret Blount, Gwen Brinkley, Wade Campbell, Suzie Durrett, Nita Franklin-Shanklin, NyKisha Franklin, Shirley Jackson, Kimberly Jones, Katie Kirkpatrick Justice, Phyliss Martello, Vy Nguyen, Terri Scott, Shaeki Shanklin** and **Jason Williams.**

Name one of the early Romans' greatest achievements.

Learning to speak Latin.

Two OJJ Daughters Earn Black Belts



Pictured are Master Ryan Blanchard, of Kajun Martial Arts, and Sheree Arthur.

Deputy Assistant Secretary **Philippe Magloire's** daughter **Claudia, 15**, and **Director of Treatment Annette Arthur's** daughter, **Sheree, 12**, have earned their First Degree Black Belt in Choi Kwan Do Karate at Kajun Martial Arts in Prairieville.



Administrative Assistant Shaeki Shanklin shares this picture of her very photogenic niece, **Kendall Cannon** (top, center, in the orange tee shirt) on the cover of the July issue of *Baton Rouge Parents Magazine*. Kendall won the Cover Kid event last year for her age group. She is a 10th grade student at Baton Rouge High School. Kendall has a twin brother, **Kendrick Cannon, Jr.**, and their parents are **Stephanie Banks** and **Kendrick Cannon, Sr.** You may recognize Kendall as a member of the "family" on the cover of OJJ's *"Introduction to Secure Care, Handbook for Parents."*

Bridge City Center for Youth

We welcome the following new employees to the Bridge City family:

Education

Elise Adams

Monique Hicks-Cook

Toyia Washington-Kendrick

Juvenile Justice Specialists

Michelle Allen

Nicole Beal

Salvatore Becnel

Druhetta Borne

Angela Burey

Keisha Eadie

Linda Harrison

Terrance Hoyt

Jahlon Jackson

Marlene Kalili-Sailor

Brittany Keller

Vanessa Mackey

Kendall Rand

Reginald Watson

Social Workers

Shakira Herbert

Bertrille Hookfin

Youth Enjoy Special Spring Break Activities

All-BCCY Basketball Tournament

During the week of July 26, the youth at BCCY enjoyed their spring break. A basketball tournament was held between all the dorms. It was awesome to see all dorms participating and really enjoying the competition. The youth displayed teamwork, sportsmanship and outstanding abilities while performing.

The top two teams were Justice and Dignity, which played for the Championship.

It was a very intense game, both teams played very hard. Justice dorm captured the victory in the end by scoring 53 points while Dignity scored 47 points. Once the game was over the youth congratulated each other on their performance.

Without the assistance of the Group Leaders, JJS staff and our outstanding officials this would have not been possible.

A special thanks to **Assistant Director Rickey Wright, Rashied Cormier, Director of Treatment and Social Services Counselor Michael Morris** for officiating the games.

Second Annual Cookie Monster Project Held

Chef Ron Sonnier, along with his students, dorm leaders and other staff, presented the 2nd Annual Cookie Monster Project. While the other teachers took vacation time, Chef Sonnier came in to teach all the students how to make his famous chocolate chip cookies. The cooking class took place twice a day for the five school vacation days, making sure that every dorm had the opportunity to get their turn.



Chef Sonnier first presented all the ingredients and explained the function of each in the baking process. Then the students were taught how to measure the ingredients precisely. The students washed their hands, put on aprons and hair nets and were turned over to experienced Culinary Arts students who demonstrated how the mixing & panning process was done.

The students of Culinary Arts were so excited to get to share with the whole campus the knowledge and expertise that they have gained in class. The students who attended were equally excited about learning how to bake. After the cookies were mixed and panned up they were taken to the oven for baking. It took about 15 minutes to get them baked and back out to the students who were waiting patiently to eat'm up. This is where the Cookie Monster came in!

The students were allowed to eat a few hot ones right out of the oven, then Chef Sonnier packed up the remainder from each dorm and tagged them for movie day at the end of the week. The students viewed a movie, and enjoyed popcorn, cookies and punch on Saturday as part of the week's festivities.

Everyone had a great time and were well behaved during the classes. Now Chef Sonnier is asked constantly "Where's the cookies, we want to do that again!" he always replies, "Maybe next year, but hopefully you will be at home showing your parents what you learned and teaching them how to make cookies."

Staff Development News

BCCY's Pre-Service Orientation Class

BCCY welcomed its 19th Pre-Service Orientation training class in July. The class included 22 trainees: 15 Juvenile Justice Specialists, four Instructors, two Social Services Counselors and Principal Roy Higgins. The Staff Development department was excited to have such a large class.



SCM trainers Jeleta Jordan and Ivory Watts demonstrating an SCM technique to the trainees.



Trainees: (left to right) Kendall Rand, Salvatore Becnel and Terrance Hoyt.



From Bottom Left: Kendall Rand, Gregory Harris, & Salvatore Becnel. Second row left: Schontakelle Thomas, Jelata Jordan, Keisha Eadie, Irielle Jackson, Linda Harrison, Nicole Beal, Kristy Burrell, Brittany Keller and Julie LaRose. Back row left: Terrance Hoyt, Bertrille Hookfin, Jahlon Jackson, Shakira Herbert, Vanessa Mackey, Elise Adams, Druhetta Boren, Michelle Allen, Reginald Watson and Monique Cook.

The graduates of the class were all smiles and ready to join the BCCY team on their last day of training. Our **Training/Development Program Manager, Julie LaRose** said, "This was one of the best classes we have ever had. The level of enthusiasm remained high throughout the five week training session and the class stated that they can't wait to make a difference in the lives of the youth!"

Staff from Jetson Center for Youth joined our trainees for the "Challenge Course" training. The two groups bonded immediately and

joined together to complete all the “challenges” issued by instructors **JJS3 Jeleta Jordan** and **JJS5 Lance Daniels**. A good time was had by all.

The graduation was one of the best and most entertaining. **Director Linda London** welcomed the class and gave gift bags to the three trainees with the highest grade point averages: **Bertrille Hookfin**, **Salvatore Becnel**, and **Shakira Herbert**. **Compliance Director Cherise Gougisha** and **Principal Roy Higgins** offered words of wisdom and encouragement. **Assistant Director Rickey Wright** issued the certificates and “roasted” the graduates. The graduation was also bittersweet as this will be the last one for our **Training Program Manager, Julie LaRose**. Julie LaRose is retiring and can’t wait to spend time with her three grandchildren and help her **daughter Cara** operate her new restaurant, “Tartine.” Mrs. Julie LaRose will be dearly missed.

Director London and the “Top Three”



Director Linda London with Bertrille Hookfin, left; with Salvatore Becnel, right; and with Shakira Herbert, below.



Baton Rouge Regional Office

Congratulations

Yolanda Latimer was selected **July Employee of the Month**.

PPO Wendy Sarnier was recently promoted to PPO3. Wendy came to us a few years ago from the local Probation & Parole staff. Needless to say, she knew the work, loved the work and she fits right in.

PPS Cobie Chauvin is the newest Supervisor in Baton Rouge OJJ. Cobie came to the Baton Rouge Office several years ago, with her infectious smile, witty personality and strong work ethic. She has been a dedicated team player and we know that she will lead her unit with the same spirit and attitude we have leaned and depended on for years.

PPO Larry Aaron is our new Armorer. Larry has been a member of the Baton Rouge Office for two years. He brings a military background to our office, and his dedication and dependability speak for itself. He is very committed to his role as a probation officer. Larry has a great sense of humor and he is well received by all.

Farewell

Baton Rouge OJJ would like to wish **PPO Joshua McManus** a warm farewell and best of luck in his move to the New Orleans Office. We know that Joshua will be an asset to any office.

Best wishes for a wonderful retirement, to **PPS Joyce Watkins** for her many years of service, dedication and joy she brought to Baton Rouge OJJ. PPS Watkins joined OJJ many years ago and became a predominant member of the BR OJJ family. Her smiles and laughter have brightened many of our days. She will be greatly missed and never forgotten. We will miss you!

Many Thanks and Hats Off

We would like to say "Hats Off" to **Administrative Assistant Christina Falcon's son-in-law, Anthony**, who joined the cleanup efforts on "beach patrol" along the coast to help preserve our Louisiana marsh and wetlands. Christina says Anthony helped to save birds and other wildlife along the coast. It is truly inspiring to help our community in a time of need. Anthony is a construction worker by trade, but he joined the cleanup crew to give something back to our community. So "hats off" to Anthony and all of you who have joined to lend a helping hand.

Alexandria Regional Office

We continue to decorate our lobby with the restorative justice activity posters from the residential clients at Renaissance and AMI.

PPO Corey LaBorde, one of Alexandria OJJ's new Probation and Parole Officers, recently re-enlisted in the Louisiana Army National Guard and enrolled in Officer Candidate School (OCS). The school is a year and a half long, and when he has completed it, Corey will have federally-recognized commission status as a Second Lieutenant.

He recently attended Phase One at Fort Meade, South Dakota, near Mount Rushmore. He reports that the terrain in South Dakota was beautiful, with large hills. The weather was a high of 80 degrees and was appreciated after the heat wave in Louisiana.

The school lasted two weeks and included instruction in Drill and Ceremonies and Land Navigation, and a five mile road march carrying 40 pounds of equipment. The candidates were also trained to lead troops on the platoon level and squad level. The next phase will be one year, one weekend a month.

"Frogs" was contributed by Nita Franklin-Shanklin, Assistant to Dr. Livers.

FROGS

Once upon a time there was a bunch of tiny frogs who arranged a competition. The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower.

A big crowd gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on the contestants. The race began. Honestly, no one in the crowd really believed that any of the frogs would reach the top. You heard statements such as, "Oh, WAY too difficult!!" "They will NEVER make it to the top." "Not a chance that they will succeed. The tower is too high!"

One by one the tiny frogs began collapsing... except for a few who kept climbing higher and higher. The crowd continued to yell, "It is too difficult!!! No one will make it!"

More tiny frogs got tired and gave up....But ONE continued higher and higher and higher....This one wouldn't give up!

At the end everyone else had given up climbing the tower, except for one tiny frog who, after a big effort, was the only one who made it and reached the top!

Then all of the other frogs naturally wanted to know how this one frog managed to do it. A contestant asked the tiny frog how he had found the strength to succeed and reach the goal? It turned out.... **that the winner was DEAF!!!!**

The wisdom of this story is: never listen to other people's tendencies to be negative or pessimistic.... because they take your most wonderful dreams and wishes away from you -- the ones you have in your heart! Always think of the power that words have. Because everything you hear and read will affect your actions! Always be positive! And above all: Be DEAF when people tell YOU that you cannot fulfill your dreams! If you fall down 10 times, stand up 11.

Recipe of the Month

BCCY Culinary Arts & Occupations, Chef Ronald J. Sonnier, CEC



Hope you have been enjoying the recipes each month. The hot summer months are still upon us and everyone is always looking for things to help them cool off. The kids are back in school now and excited to get back to cooking. We are going to try out some different recipes and we will certainly pass them on. Bell peppers are in season now and with the Gulf being cleaned up it's time to start cooking with shrimp and crab meat.

Figs will soon be in season. Figs outperform most other fruits nutritionally. They are a good source of vitamin B6, and have high quantities of minerals including potassium, and more dietary fiber than many other fruit. Figs are thought to be one of the oldest cultivated fruits, with references dating back over 6,000 years. Historically figs have been revered from the earliest times. They are mentioned in the Bible and were given to Greek athletes and Roman workers to increase strength and vitality. Let's not forget Queen Cleopatra, with her basket of figs – hiding the asp. If you are like me, you enjoy figs when they come into season, and if you preserved some, you will enjoy this easy to make cake - it's so delicious.

Here are a couple of recipes that I think you will enjoy! Until next month, Bon Appétit!

Chef Ron Sonnier

Fig Cake

3 eggs	1 tsp. nutmeg
1 cup sugar	1 cup buttermilk
1/2 cup butter	2 cups fig preserves (stemmed and chopped)
2 cups all-purpose flour	1 cup pecans
1 tsp. baking soda	
1 tsp. cinnamon	

Cream eggs, sugar and butter. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix until the figs are blended. Pour into a greased and floured bundt pan or tube pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 1 hour or until golden and cooked through.

Louisiana Fried Stuffed Bell Peppers

2 lg. onions, finely diced	1/2 c. parsley, chopped
1 clove garlic, finely diced	5 lg. bell peppers
2 1/2 sticks butter	
1 1/2 lbs. shrimp	BATTER:
1 lb. fresh white lump crab meat	2 eggs, beaten
4 c. bread crumbs	6 oz. milk
1 tbsp. salt	1 c. cracker meal
1 tsp. pepper, black	1 c. fish-fry (Zatarain's)
1/2 tsp. red pepper	Cooking oil
1 c. green onions and tops, finely chopped	

In a heavy iron pot, saute' onions and garlic in butter until wilted and transparent. Add shrimp and crab meat. Cook 5 minutes. Add bread crumbs, salt, pepper, green onions and parsley. Cook another 15 minutes. Let stand until cool. Cut bell peppers into 3 parts lengthwise. Remove seeds and stems and parboil for 3 minutes. Mound cold stuffing on each 1/3 bell pepper and form into a ball. Make batter by beating eggs and milk together in bowl. Mix cracker meal and fish fry together in a separate bowl. Roll stuffed peppers in meal mixture, then in egg mixture, and back again in meal. Fry in oil at 375 degrees until golden brown and hot throughout. Freezes well. Serves 15.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

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